(b) The 3rd meeting of India-Nepal Joint Committee on Water Resources (JCWR) headed by the Secretaries of Water Resources of India and Nepal was held at Kathmandu (Nepal) from 29.09.2008 to 01.10.2008. Issues discussed in the meeting are as under:

(i) Setting up of three tier bilateral mechanism consisting of Joint Ministerial Commission on Water Resources headed by the Ministers of Water Resources of India & Nepal, existing Joint Committee on Water Resources headed by Secretaries of Water Resources of India and Nepal and Joint Standing Technical Committee headed by Chairman, Ganga Flood Control Commission from India side;

(ii) Setting up of Pancheshwar Developement Authority,

(iii) Kosi afflux bund breach and related matters,

(iv) Issues related to Gandak Project,

(v) Pre-feasibility study of West Rapti Multipurpose (Naumure) Project, etc.

(c) and (d) Implementation of the decisions taken in the meeting will be reviewed in the next meeting of JCWR proposed in February, 2009.

Pending water dispute in Haryana

†1695. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Satluj Yamuna Link (SLK) water dispute has been pending for a long time in Haryana;

(b) whether Haryana has to face water crisis due to this dispute; and

(c) if so, whether Government will consider to develop a continuous process to solve the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Sutlej Yamuna Link (SYL) Canal envisages conveying Haryana's share of surplus Ravi-Beas waters. However, Punjab Termination of Agreement Act, 2004 terminated all agreements related to Ravi-Beas waters. A Presidential Reference was filed in July 2004 seeking to know the constitutional validity of the Act in the Hon'ble Supreme Court and the Court is seized of the matter.

(b) As per the Government of Haryana, the authorized allocation of Haryana of Ravi-Beas waters as per 1981 interstate agreement is 3.50 Million Acre Feet (MAF), which was increased to 3.83 MAF by the Ravi & Beas Waters Tribunal and however, Haryana is being delivered only 1.62 MAF due to non-completion of SYL Canal.

(c) The resolution of the matter now depends on the outcome of the Presidential Reference.

Assistance provide to states for mapping water resources

1696. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to provide assistance to States to map water resources;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Ministry of Water Resources has no specific programme for providing assistance to States for mapping water resources. Necessary studies are undertaken by respective State Governments themselves. However, technical assistance is provided by various organisations under the Ministry of Water Resources to States as and when requested.

Proposal for financial assistance by Government of Punjab

1697. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Punjab has sent any proposal to the Centre for financial assistance to strengthen its canals, which require urgent attention;

(b) whether it is a fact that Punjab faces a serious problem of water logging and solvation specially in the districts of Faridkot, Muktsar, and Ferozpur; and

(c) whether the Centre has considered the proposal; and

(d) if so, how much money has been sanctioned for the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) South Western Districts of Punjab namely Faridkot, Muktasar and Ferozpur are badly affected by salinisation and water logging.

Government of Punjab has proposed 4 schemes of Extension, Renovation and Modernization (ERM) namely Modernization of Canals being fed from river Sutlej, Relining of Sirhind Feeder from RD 119700-447927, Relining of Rajasthan Feeder from RD 117900-496800 and Raising of Lining/ Bank of Sirhind Feeder. These are various stages of appraisal.

Earlier, the State Government had sent a concept note on the proposals for relining of Sirhind Feeder and Rajasthan Feeder, to overcome water logging and salinity problems in the districts of Faridkot, Muktasar and Ferozpur and sought financial assistance.

Since the Central Government launched the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme in 1996, Central Loan Assistance/Central Assistance of Rs. 99.33 crore, Rs. 24.72 crore and Rs. 13.50 crore have been released to three ERM projects *viz.* Remodeling of UBDC System (completed in 2006-07), Extension of Kandi Canal, Stage-II (ongoing with effect from 2002-03) and Rehabilitation of 1st Patiala Feeder and Kotla Branch Canal (ongoing with effect from 2007-08).

Dangerous level of groundwater

1698. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the groundwater in various parts of the country which is used for drinking purposes contain dangerous level of lead as reported in media;

(b) if so, the details thereof;